

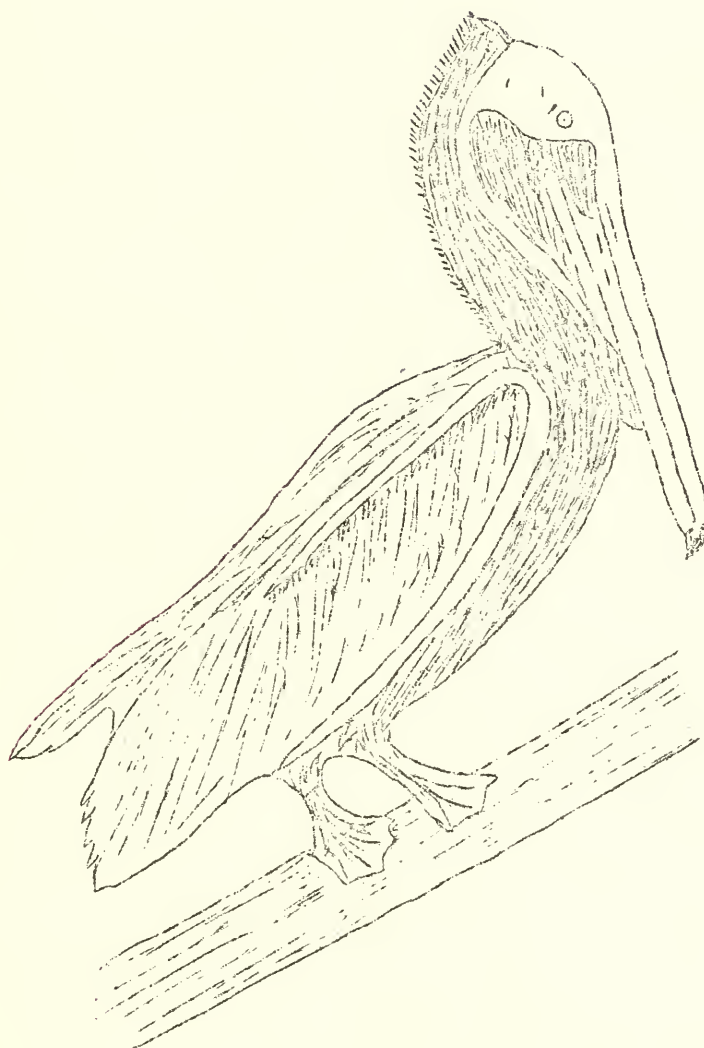
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Oct. 18, 1954

V.1, No. 4

THE BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS CREEK NEWS



U.S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINDEN, LA.

Right From The Shoulder-

What do the farmers of the Ruston-Minden areas think of the work being done by the Soil Erosion Service? That is a question, the answer to which every man in our organization, is vitally interested.

Is our work meeting with the approval of the farmer and land owner? Are we actually "selling" them on soil erosion control work?

With these questions in mind the Editor of the NEWS made a tour through part of the area North of Ruston the first part of the week. We met at random on the streets and in the field several men upon whose farms work is already being done and asked them to candidly tell us what they thought of the Soil Erosion Service, and more specifically what they thought of the work being done on their farms.

Here's what they said:

MR. V. W. COLVIN

"I do not mind telling you that when I was first approached relative to entering an agreement for the five-year program of the Soil Erosion Service that I was skeptical. I know now that this initial skepticism was due entirely to a lack of understanding of the work.

"When I was finally convinced that here was a real program of erosion control, I signed an agreement--still with some misgivings.

"Well, the boys have been doing considerable work on my place, and I do not hesitate that I am now convinced of the thoroughness of the work. In fact, from the work I have seen done on my own farm, I have become so

enthusiastic that I am talking soil erosion control to my neighbors and urging those who have not already signed up to do so at once so they can get their share of this fine work."

MR. JACK SAINT

"It's a great program of work. It's the best thing that has ever happened to me from a farming viewpoint. We hill farmers were sitting by year after year while our land was slowly and surely getting away from us. This Soil Erosion Service work is the thing that we have been needing and I hope to see it continue until every farm in North Louisiana has had this program worked out on it."

Mr. L. SAINT

"I can say nothing but good for the Soil Erosion Service work as I have seen it carried out on my farm. The boys work hard at the job and I have tried to cooperate with them in every way."

MR. RUEL COLVIN

"There has been no work done on my farm yet, but I am signed up and ready to go. I have watched the program as being carried out on other farms and I am completely sold on it.

"I am ready to do my part of the job and look forward to the time when the crews can get around to my place."

SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD, DOESN'T IT. WONDER HOW THE FARMERS IN THE MINDEN AREA FEEL? THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWS WILL GIVE SOME INTERVIEWS FROM MINDEN AREA.

The Brushy-Cocley-Cypress
Creek

N-E-W-S

Issued Twice Monthly at
Minden, La.

By the U. S. Soil Erosion
Service, Department of the
Interior.

Vol. 1. No. 4.

October 18, 1934

LET'S TALK THINGS OVER

-O-

We hope to be able to get a copy of the NEWS in the hands of every farmer residing in the Brushy-Cocley-Cypress creek areas. And more than that we hope there will be a large number of farmers outside the Ruston-Minden areas who are so interested in the work of the Soil Erosion Service that they will ask us to send the NEWS to them.

We want the land owners of North Louisiana to think of the NEWS as their own publication. We want to receive letters and suggestions on what you would like to see in this little publication; letters asking for information of every kind in regard to soil erosion control.

We want to make the NEWS readable, interesting and informative. Through these columns we want to keep the people within the bounds of our soil erosion project acquainted with the progress of the work; to present information that will be of value to every land owner in caring for his individual farm.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ON OUR MAILING LIST COME OR WRITE TO EITHER THE MINDEN OR RUSTON OFFICE OF THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO PUT YOUR NAME ON OUR MAILING LIST SO YOU WILL RECEIVE THE NEWS PROMPTLY IN YOUR OWN MAIL BOX.

THANKS TO THE NEWSPAPERS--

To the newspapers of North Louisiana we desire to express our thanks for the wholehearted support and publicity which is being given to the work of the Soil Erosion Service. Most of the editors of our section of the state, realizing the tremendous importance of the work which is being done, have been most liberal in publishing items of news concerning our work. Again, we say, many thanks.

WE ARE ALWAYS READY

-O-

Department heads of the Soil Erosion Service have attended a number of community meetings in the Minden-Ruston areas. Those who make the programs for these meetings are very nice in allowing time for one or more speakers to talk about various phases of the soil erosion control work.

Members of the staff of the Soil Erosion Service are always glad of an opportunity to talk about the work--especially to such interested listeners as are always present at the community meetings.

There is not a member of the Ruston and Minden staffs who does not appreciate these opportunities given to tell of our work. It is a real pleasure to mingle with the folk of our area and discuss with them the mutual problems of our program.

Call on us--we are always ready. We want to know the people of our area better; we want you to know us. Visit the Minden and Ruston offices. If you have questions in your mind about the work do not hesitate to call on us. It is our business to serve you. We want you to thoroughly understand the work we are trying to do. Your cooperation is desired and needed.

Work — Information

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
F. S. Edmiston, Chief
Engineer

The engineering department force has really been "hitting the ball". In fact it is hard to keep members of this department still long enough to get a story from them regarding the progress of the engineering work. The same goes for all "the boys" connected with the Soil Erosion Service for that matter. Every one of the men are so interested in their particular phase of the work and the complete success of the soil erosion control program that they disregard all working hours and keep going from early to late.

Here are a few facts regarding the various phases of the engineering work, however, that will give you some idea of the speed with which the work is being carried on:

There have been a total of 1,064 wire dams built in the Minden and Ruston areas.

Rock dams total 239; pole dams 282; sack dams 18; earth dams 3.

The enormous total of 1,047,841 contour lines have been run. Terrace lines run add up to 607,418 feet. Construction of terraces has been going along as fast as possible under the bad conditions caused by the long period of dry weather. Kelly terraces to the amount of 6,050 feet have been constructed.

Farms rechecked for terraces are 187. A grand total of 1,385,643 square feet of banks have been sloped along with 2,100 square feet of banks protected with vegetation.

Sounds like plenty work! Well, it is. But the engineering department says "you ain't seen nothing yet".

-----C-----

Don't get impatient or worried if the workers have not reached your farm yet. The work is going along as fast as possible and if you have signed your agreement you will be taken care of in due time. Lots of work has been accomplished, but the surface has hardly been scratched. The work will be distributed as rapidly and equitably as possible. More agreements are being signed daily. More and more farmers are showing a real interest in the work. We like that; we want that kind of cooperation. We will get to your farm as quickly as possible.

GAME CONSERVATION
H. W. Hammett, Ag-
ricultural Aide

The stray or abandoned house cat is probably the greatest single enemy agency of game, insectivorous and songbirds. Cats are a serious menace to rabbits, squirrels and other beneficial forms of wild life, and even to young poultry.

It is the usual policy of townspeople to take unwanted cats into the country and dump them forcing the cats to hunt for a livelihood. Cats are largely nocturnal in their habits and are seldom seen at their destructive work of killing quail on the next or in a covey of birds roosting on the ground.

This, of course, does not mean the cat does not perform a service around the barnyard. One or two good cats should be had on every farm. However, the farm should not be overstocked with cats.

An abandoned cat soon becomes a skilled hunter when turned loose in the woods. This habit once acquired is never lost. All unowned cats should be destroyed as a real factor in assisting in conserving valuable bird and other wild life and as a matter of public safety.

The U. S. Soil Erosion Service plans to use traps to control cats in areas set aside for game management. These traps are easily built. Anyone desiring instructions on how to make such traps may write for Leaflet 50, U. S. Department of Agriculture, or call by the office of the Soil Erosion Service and receive one.

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FORESTRY
A. S. McKean,
Chief Forester

Too much stress cannot be placed on the value of woodlots and protected farm woodlands. Here is a source of revenue that many of our farmers are not prone to consider seriously. And yet the woodlands of our farms, given proper care and protection, can be a real revenue producers for the farmer. The care and effort put into woodland protection over the period of years until it is ready to be used can be classed as nothing less than a savings account that pays high interest. Here's a little story on what a woodlot is doing for one farmer:

Fifteen acres of farm woodland in Medina County, Ohio, protected for 35 years, has produced an annual gross income of \$150 worth of saw logs, \$100 worth of maple sirup and 30 cords each year of fire wood. In addition, the owner, Ira Yoder, has occasion to go to his woods each year for posts, a few poles and sticks of lumber for repair jobs to his buildings or farm implements and supplies of fuel wood. Last year he also furnished cordwood to several neighbors. The woods, managed for continuous production, is in excellent shape and still has an abundant supply of saw logs and cord wood for future crops, F. W. Dean, extension forester, reports.

PASTURE WORK
W. E. Dee, Chief of
Range Management

"Get busy on your pastures," is the warning sent out by Mr. Dee. The time is short--approximately 30 days--for seeding pastures this fall. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that Cooperators build fences and get stakes ready in advance.

Work of putting out lime is already underway and is being pushed as fast as possible in order to reach farmers who are ready for this work to begin. About a thousand acres have been signed up for pastures. This means a thousand tons of lime must be distributed. Sodding crews are busy putting out bermuda in pastures where needed.

In the mixture after bermuda is put out will be 10 lbs. of Dallis grass, 3 lbs. hop clover, 3 lbs. white clover and 2 lbs. of black medic. Fertilizer consists of the ton of lime and 300 lbs. of 3-10-3, except on Red Bay soil where 100 pounds of 11-48-0 will be used on each acre.

Many farmers are putting off their pasture work thinking they have plenty of time, but this is not true. Pasture is one of the most profitable areas on the farm so why not do everything possible to get yours this fall? Then in the spring a hand seed-er will be furnished with which 10 pounds of lespedeza seed will be sown by the farmer on each acre seeded and fertilized this fall. Let's keep busy on this pasture work. Get everything ready--fences built, contour furrows run and bermuda sodded--then you will be ready to go.

---Q---

BUSY MEN

If you would get a picture of "busy men" just grab a glimpse of H. M. Mims, acting regional director; A. C. Morris, agronomist and contact man; H. B. Martin, agronomist in charge of the Ruston office; M. Hays chief clerk; and A. H. Bean, soil expert. That is, get a glimpse of them if you can find them still long enough. Oh, well, when men are interested in their work as these are, what else can you expect?

---Q---

REMEMBER--

If you want to get the NEWS twice monthly come by the office or drop us a card with your name and address--either at Minden or Ruston.

REMEMBER--

You want to be sure to visit the Soil Erosion Service exhibit at the State Fair in Shreveport. Tell your friends outside the area to make a point of seeing it, too. A great deal of work is represented in this exhibit--and it tells a story you will want to know.

THAT'S ALL--MORE NEXT ISSUE

Items of Interest to Farmers—Read Them—

DEMAND FOR SOIL EROSION SERVICE WORK GROWS

THE EXCHANGES SAY--

All over the nation, as farmers and civic leaders become more and more acquainted with the aims and work of the U. S. Soil Erosion Service, there is a growing desire to know more about the work and an ever-increasing demand for information and the locating of projects in new areas. For instance--

Expansion of the Federal erosion control program in South Carolina 50,000 acres of farm land in the watershed of Fishing Creek in York County, was announced by H. H. Bennett, Director of the Soil Erosion Service, with the approval of Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes.

Work will be started immediately with an allotment of \$150,000 from FWA funds made available to the Soil Erosion Service by Secretary Ickes.

Although field offices will be set up at Rock Hill for the new area, the work will be directed by Dr. T. S. Buie, Regional Director of the Tiger River Project, with headquarters at Spartanburg.

Establishment of an erosion control demonstration area in the Fishing Creek watershed followed repeated requests from civic organizations and individual farmers in the locality. A petition signed by some 500 land owners of the watershed has been submitted to Mr. Bennett in support of the program, and a delegation of York county farmers recently called personally upon Mr. Bennett to urge that demonstration work be started in their section of the State.

With the original ten million dollar FWA allocation made last year and the more recent ten million dollar allotment authorized the Soil Erosion Service now has twenty-nine full projects and two sub-projects underway in twenty-eight states.

From some of the news-bulletins which we have received from other Soil Erosion Service projects, we clip the following items, which we believe to be timely and of interest to the people of our own area.

PURPOSE OF OUR PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate to the farmers that our recommendations are practical. It is possible for you to see whether or not our recommendations are practical either by having actual work done on your farm or by observing work that we have done on other farms. The things we are recommending to be done are only those things which have been tried in actual practice.

EXPERIMENTS SHOW--

Experiments which have been conducted and carefully checked show that erosion takes out 21 times as much plant food as that taken out by the crop--and you CAN'T SELL ERODED SOIL.

DEFINITIONS

Keep these terms in mind--you'll hear them often.

Eroded: Eaten away, irregular or worn away. Eaten into or to destroy by breaking down or wearing away as land by the action of the water.

Strip Cropping Strip cropping consists of planting strips of densely growing or fibrous-tilled crops along the contours of erosive slopes.

If you like the NEWS tell us--help us to make it bigger and better.

SOIL EROSION SERVICE TEST*
RACES, DAMS STAND THE TEST

REMEMBER THE HEAVY RAIN
IN JULY, 1933.

The heaviest 36-hour rain on record in the last 10 years failed recently to damage a single terrace or check-dam structure installed by the Soil Erosion Service in the Deep River Valley area in North Carolina, according to a report from E. R. Raney, Chief Agricultural Engineer of the Deep River erosion control project, who has just completed a survey of the territory.

Up to the time of the record rain, upward of 100 miles of terrace lines had been constructed under the direction of Soil Erosion Service engineers as an initial step in the program to aid farmers in preventing washoff, Mr. Raney reported. In addition to the large number of permanent broad-base terraces built, 831 terrace outlets were constructed and 48 gully fills made. The total number of farms worked on by the engineering group so far is 88, comprising 13,000 acres.

"The terraces we are building are for permanency," declared Mr. Raney. "We are using the methods found most effective by many Government soil erosion experiment stations, including one in North Carolina, by the various State experiment stations, and from results obtained by many farmers who have been successful in controlling the washing of their lands.

"The farmer wants a terrace that causes the least loss of cultivated land. Also, he prefers one that can be crossed and cultivated with machinery. Terraces must be built with a continuous grade toward the outlet to prevent excess puddling of water.

"A well-built terrace not only prevents washoff but checks runoff, thus retaining more rainfall and providing the crops with a maximum amount of moisture."

JUST WHAT DOES THE ABOVE
STATEMENT FROM NORTH CAR-
OLINA MEAN TO NORTH LOU-
ISIANA FARMERS? KEEP READ-
ING IN NEXT COLUMN

There is surely not a North Louisiana farmer who does not remember the devastating rain that visited this section in July, 1933. In fact, the effects of this devastating downpour are evident on most of the farms in the Minden-Ruston areas.

It has been said that more damage was done and more soil lost from the farms in this section in that heavy July rain than can be replaced by concerted action of our farmers in soil preservation work in a century. The foregoing statement is not an exaggeration. Many of you today can see great gullies in your lands, can see your fields with the productive top soil gone and definitely realize what wind and rain can do and has been doing to your land.

The statement in the column to the left then of how the work of the North Carolina Soil Erosion Service project stood the test should mean much to all of us. Here we have a very real and true picture of what proper land care and soil erosion control methods can do.

Our own Soil Erosion Service work right here in North Louisiana is preparing the lands of many cooperating farmers to withstand, not only such future unprecedented downpours, but the year in and year out rigors of natural weather-wear.

A great lesson is here presented to us by a sister Soil Erosion Service project in North Carolina. A definite experiment (36-inch rain storm) has been undergone by work already done. And that work stood the test.

Just so will the work being done in North Louisiana stand the yearly test of battling our great soil and land enemy--Erosion. ARE YOU IN ON THE GOOD WORK THAT IS BEING DONE?

SQUIBS!

BE SURE TO VISIT THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE BOOTH AT THE STATE FAIR

A great deal of hard work is represented in the big exhibit which the Soil Erosion Service will have in the Agricultural Building at the Louisiana State Fair at Shreveport. The exhibit tells a real story and we hope that when you attend the Fair you will take time to carefully examine the exhibit.

The booth represents a typical farm in the Minden-Ruston area. In one half is shown a clear picture as it looked when the farmer signed his agreement with the Soil Erosion Service. The second half of the booth shows the type of work that has been done and depicts clearly the benefits to be derived from a program of soil erosion control work--such as followed by our service in this area.

DON'T HURRY! TAKE YOUR TIME! EXAMINE THIS EXHIBIT CAREFULLY! TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO BE SURE TO SEE IT!

WASHINGTON VISITORS TO OUR PROJECT

The Minden and Ruston offices have had the pleasure of a visit from several men connected with the administrative office in Washington during the past week. We always welcome these visitors and hope that they and others will come to see us often. Among those in the office recently were:

Dr. R. A. Winston, technical secretary and advisor to Director Hugh H. Bennett. While here Dr. Winston attended the Community Club meeting at Vienna and delivered an inspiring and instructive address to the meeting.

Following a trip of inspection to various work projects in the field with Acting Regional Director H. M. Mims, Dr. Winston praised the type of work being done in this area. He said that everything appeared to be moving along in fine shape.

E. V. Jotter, Chief Forester, spent a day here with A. S. McKean, chief forester of the local project. Mr. Jotter was kind enough to make a number of suggestions in regard to the State Fair booth, and extended many compliments to the local officials for having a big booth showing our work at the Fair.

A. S. Imerie, administrative assistant for E. C. W. camps, was here Monday making final plans for the coming of the E. C. W. camp to Minden this week.

Miss Mary Mims spent a few minutes in the office Tuesday. We are always glad to have Miss Mary drop in. Her enthusiasm and joy in her own work is an inspiration to all of us.

W. T. Nolin and Mr. Perkins from Hamburg, La. spent a day here. They were especially interested in Mr. Dee's pasture work.

U. S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minden and Ruston, Louisiana

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of Postage \$300.00.

Name _____

Address _____

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures and disturbed by no creditors and enslaved by no debt, shall sit among his teeming gardens and orchards and vineyards and dairies and barnyards, pitching his crops in his own wisdom and growing them in independence, making cotton his clear surplus and selling it in his own time, and in his bidding--getting his pay in cash and not in receipted mortgages that discharge debt, but does not restore his freedom--then shall he be breaking the fullness of our day." Henry W. Grady.